

Spanish Speaking Workshop – Overall Workshop Summary

On November 28th, 2012, a group of Spanish speaking individuals from the neighborhood participated in the first of a series of Spanish speaking workshops. The meeting was primarily attended by neighborhood residents; however, there were also some other individuals who are involved in the development industry in attendance. Although the meeting was held in Spanish, there was simultaneous English translation in the event that English speaking residents wanted to participate as well.

The workshop began with a presentation on Urban Villages and the Urban Village planning process given by Chris Lepe from TransForm (TransForm is a public transportation and walkable community advocacy group). At the end of the presentation participants broke out into groups. Within the groups, participants were asked their perception of the assets and the opportunities that exist in the neighborhood. Additionally, there was discussion about a future vision for the Urban Village and the height of development along its corridor. The final task for participants was to use Lego's, which represented the projected development and population growth as outlined in the Envision San Jose 2040 General Plan, to construct where they thought new development should be planned. Each table was provided with a large map of the study area and a bag of Lego's. Each bag of Lego's corresponded to the projected population growth and development allotted for that particular Urban Village. Maps of both the West San Carlos and South Bascom Urban Villages were available for workshop participants to choose from but all of the participants chose to focus on the West San Carlos Urban Village.

There were some interesting themes that emerged from the Spanish speaking workshop that had not been apparent at the previous Urban Village workshop. Since many of the participants were parents of students who attend Luther Burbank Elementary School most of the discussion and growth strategy activity focused on the area close to the school. Additionally, the topic of discussion was different than previous workshops as many of the assets and opportunities focused more social issues than issues with the built environment. This was also evident in the outcome of the Lego exercise as it appeared the groups felt it was more beneficial to discuss their concerns and desires about the neighborhood as opposed to using Lego's to construct their vision.

Table #2

Assets:

- The O'Connor Hospital is very important to the residents.
- The clothing stores in the area.

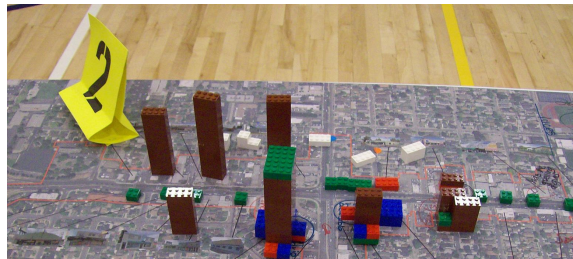
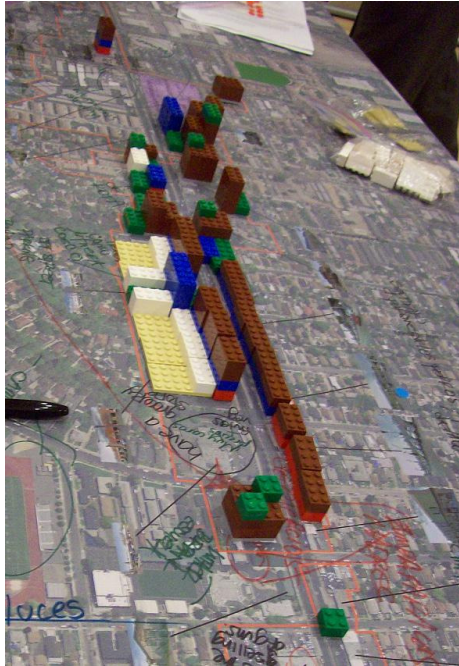
Opportunities:

- More parks in the area.
- More street lights along the West San Carlos Street where children play because it is really dark at night.
- More libraries and accessible hours to these libraries.
- They would like to have Zumba classes at a local center.

- They would like to see a Food Max and a YMCA with a swimming pool, or a local community center where they and their children can participate in activities.
- An affordable fresh produce store.

What they participants didn't like:

- The gun store around the corner of Luther Burbank Elementary School.
- The Smoke Shop on West San Carlos Street, it is near the elementary school.



Growth Strategy:

Table #2 focused most of their development near the middle of the corridor. They created a continuous development of midrise buildings that had ground floor retail or office space and residential above. The group located surface parking behind the proposed developments. Around the intersection of West San Carlos and Bascom, the group built residential towers with parks on the roof intermixed with some retail and office space. The group also added a number of small parks and public spaces throughout the corridor.

Table #3

Assets:

- Luther Burbank Elementary School.
- Shopping center.
- All shops along the West San Carlos Street.
- Restaurants.
- Beauty Salon.
- Gas stations.
- Hospital.
- Laundromat.

Opportunities for change both Positive and Negative

- More opportunity for jobs.
- Affordable housing; homeownership opportunities.
- More local community events.
- Take away car dealerships that are taking up space; for example, there is a car dealership next to Luther Burbank Elementary School's parking lot that can be used as additional parking for the school.
- Less cantinas and adult entertainment stores.
- More benches or places to sit with shading especially along the VTA bus routes.
- More trash cans near the VTA bus stations.
- Safer crosswalks and safer streets.
- More cafes and bakery shops, and a pet store.
- More clothing stores and shoe stores.



Growth Strategy:

Although, Table #3 chose to add less development than Table #2, some of the land use themes remained the same. The group added a number of parks throughout the corridor, they chose to place residential buildings at the intersection of West San Carlos and Bascom and they located parking behind new development on West San Carlos. Two things that differentiated this group from Table #2, was their choice of one use buildings as opposed to mixed-use and that they would prefer parking structures instead of surface parking lots.